

**AUSTRALIAN**

# **UFO**

**BULLETIN**



**THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY**

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More reports from Northern Victoria, by Paul Norman.

19.2.78 : Further details on the sighting by the Leathbridge (Bulletin Feb.1978)

Giving up the chase, Les & Grace Leathbridge returned home. A few minutes later this or a similar object was back and descending slowly to the North. At the same time the cows in the adjoining paddock began to become restless and they came running to the South end of the paddock as if being herded toward that direction. The dogs were barking savagely. Two circles were found in the same paddock.

On the 7th March another UFO encounter occurred at Echuca Village about five miles from Echuca. At 3-30am Mr. & Mrs. Gilham were awakened by dogs barking furiously and disturbance among the sheep. They looked out the window and saw a "pillow of fire" in the driveway. The dirt and gravel in the driveway were blown about. Next morning when the story broke, scores of cars arrived on the scene, making it useless to obtain samples. Mrs. Gilham suffered a severe headache for several days afterwards.

Going back to the 15th of December. Allan Foster was irrigating a paddock near McDonald Swamp near Cohuna in Northern Victoria. He first saw an object to the west, it was flashing red and white while moving in a vertical circle. The strange object was changing colour and once each second and completing the manoeuvre within five minutes. The altitude ranged from 45deg. angle down to 15deg. angle at which time the light went out as if turned off by a switch. Twenty minutes later Allan heard a sound like car wheels in gravel. Looking up expecting to see his brother Ian coming for him, he saw that the object was coming at him less than a 100 yards away. The object was still blinking red and white. He then ran home leaving the water running, Ian said that his brother's face was as white as sheet and he was very frightened and upset. They went back to the paddock together and shut off the water. By this time the object had disappeared.

On the 26th of December, Graham and Fay Fenton of Leitchville photographed strange circular markings 6 miles east of the township. The rings were on an isolated track near Deep Creek. Even though the holiday season was on, the dust covered track showed no signs of traffic. The rings were about 12 inches in width around a 9 foot diameter circle. Although the track and shoulder were nearly as hard as concrete, the depression was 1/2 inch deep maintaining the same depth over the contour of the road centre indicating that whatever device had made this depression, it was not only heavy, but flexible as well. A photo was taken by Mr. Norman.

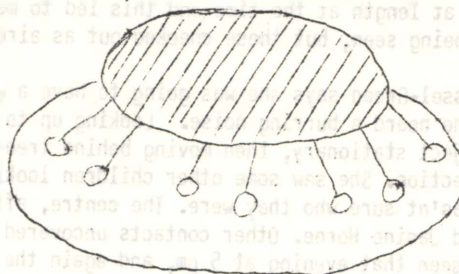
REPORT ON THE MOE SIGHTING, 24/10/77

The sighting at Moe was reported in the Feb. Bulletin, and since then, Mr. J. Reid has interviewed one of the witnesses, Lance Baldwin, 14, of Moe. Mr. Reid visited the site of the observation with the witness and reports that although the object was not observed to land, the incident struck him as a good sighting of something unusual. The area in question is residential - the Princes Highway, Moe West. The object was observed for about 5 minutes. Mr. Reid reports:

Lance and two of his friends were standing on the street corner when they noticed a small white moving light in the sky to the south west of them. The time was about 7.40 in the evening and it was quite dark but the weather was clear and they could see the stars. Lance described the light as like a star, but moving down and towards the east. As it became lower and larger it appeared as an oval white light with spinning coloured lights about its circumference. It continued to move in an easterly direction, with the encircling lights pulsing and changing colour continually. Lance and his friends pursued the UFO for a distance of about a quarter of a mile until it was quite low over the trees of the Edward Hunter Reserve.

The UFO then stopped and hovered over the trees. Lance and his friends were still on the Princes Highway and a good four or five hundred yards from the UFO, which appeared about the size of the moon at this stage. They observed "legs" appear under it in a "telescoping" movement. Lance particularly noticed "bubbles of light" on the ends of the legs. The UFO then abruptly vanished. The duration of the sighting was about five minutes. Lance heard no sound which he could have associated with the sighting. No physical traces of the UFO were found on the Edward Hunter Reserve although a search was made by Lance's father.

Witness's sketch.





UFO SEEN NEAR CHILLINGOLLAH

From the Swan Hill Guardian, 11/1/1978: According to a young Swan Hill woman there have been several sightings of unidentified flying objects in the Chillingollah and Manangatang areas recently. The woman said she had been sceptical of the claims until she saw a UFO for herself on Saturday night (Jan. 7)

The woman said she was travelling to Swan Hill from Chinkapook by car when the sighting was made at about 11.30 pm. The UFO was first noticed by her four year old son, who was a passenger with the woman in a car being driven by a male friend. The woman, who knows the area particularly well, said the craft landed in a paddock owned by Mr. John Templeton.

The young boy said he watched the lighted craft descending. He drew the attention of his mother to the lights just before it settled, "about two paddocks away from the Swan Hill road". The driver stopped the car and wanted to investigate, but was persuaded to "get away from here as fast as we can" by the woman, who said she was "petrified".

The woman said the sighting was made in an isolated area. The vehicle in which the three were travelling was fitted with a CB radio, but attempts to contact other CB users were unsuccessful.

The woman said the craft had "greenish blue and red" lights of exceptional brightness. The lights gave the impression that they were on a concave surface. "The only thing of which I am absolutely certain is that it was not an aircraft of any common type", the woman said. She said her friend's brother and his mate had seen a similar UFO near Manangatang earlier on Saturday night.

The three Swan Hill people intend to inspect the paddock for visual evidence of the landing....

INTERSTATE REPORTS

UFO Sighted at Benboyd National Park, near Eden, just prior to the total eclipse of the sun, Oct 23, 1976

Movie Film Taken

At approximately, 4.00 p.m. on Oct. 23, three young men were preparing their cameras for the coming eclipse of the sun. They were located on top of a large cliff face overlooking the sea at Taola Point, Benboyd National Park, which is about 15 km north of Eden. They had an unobstructed view in all directions.

Suddenly one of them yelled out that a group of strange objects were hovering over the water close to their horizon and they all gathered to watch as the elliptical shaped objects began to move towards and away from them apparently in a controlled manner. Remembering that they had a loaded movie camera, one man quickly picked it up, checked the settings, and immediately began to film the phenomenon. Another took a series of still pictures with his camera.

The motion picture camera was panned over a large area taking in the more prominent object and at least two other anomalous objects, which appeared smaller or perhaps further away. The man operating the movie camera turned the lens adjustment to maximum zoom, stopping momentarily as he did so to correct the focus. While the camera was in maximum zoom, the operator observed that the more prominent object was revolving and appeared to be dull grey in colour. A domed upper structure could be seen through the movie camera view-finder, which appeared to blend in smoothly with the lower, larger section of the object. The witness described the objects as being "bell-shaped" and the largest, or closest, appeared to rotate about its centre as it hovered. It was very clearly defined and the witnesses were adamant about what they observed.

All three then stopped filming and turned their attention to the eclipse which was about to start. They began filming the eclipse as it went through totality, and during this period did not look for the anomalous objects. After the eclipse, the witnesses again turned their attention to the previous position of the mystery objects, but nothing was in view. The men are of the opinion that the objects used the temporary cover of darkness from the eclipse to make their departure. Staff members have viewed the footage of movie film and the still pictures, and have confirmed that both series of photographic material have the objects on them.

The film and the photographic stills are presently being examined by our consultants and further information on this case will be published as it is forthcoming. ...

Reprinted from UFO Research newsletter No. 53.

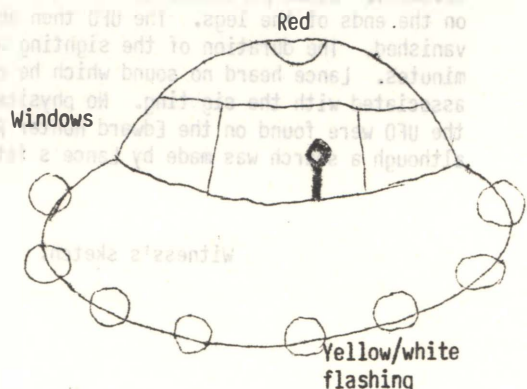
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SIGHTING AT SEVEN MILE BEACH - TASMANIA

The sighting occurred at Seven Mile Beach on February 3rd 1978 at about 9.30. pm, the time was vital information with Hobart airport so near. Contact with the Department of Transport - Air Transport Group revealed no air traffic movements, overflights, or RAAF manouevres in the state between 9pm and 10.30 pm on the evening concerned.

The children, aged about 10 or 11 were at a youth camp and had not met prior to the week's camp, or in fact been together afterwards so that a hoax would seem to be ruled out. The sighting was discussed at length at the time and this led to mention of other lights being seen, but these checked out as aircraft in the area...

Michelle Russel-Green says she was going to have a wash about 9.30pm when she heard a burring noise. Looking up to the East she saw an object stationary, then moving behind trees in a northerly direction. She saw some other children looking at the object, but wasn't sure who they were. The centre, after some time contacted Janine Horne. Other contacts uncovered reports of other lights seen that evening at 5 pm, and again the following evening. These were consistent with air traffic movements.





SIGHTING AT SEVEN MILE BEACH - TASMANIA

To Michelle the object seemed close and at tree top level. It was dome shaped with what looked like a row of windows about the middle. A wider area of light, disc shaped was spinning below. She also saw flashing white/yellow lights on the edge of the disc and a red light atop the dome. The body of the object may have been white or just reflecting the bright lights.

A second description was given by Janine Horne who was outside when she saw the UFO above the trees to the east. It was like two saucers stuck together. It was spinning fast at first then slowed down and a figure was visible in what looked like a window near the object's centre.

The object moved south then returned to the north, a faint whining noise being heard as it moved behind the trees.

The elliptical object had a row of windows across its top half. There was a red light on top and a green light below. A row of lights was visible across the centre.

The figure appeared to be thin with a largish rounded head above what looked like a high collar, it had an arm visible to the right. The figure moved its head and changed positions. The UFO then went behind trees to the east of the witnesses.

Reprinted from UFO 1978 Tasmania.

Pawleena, Tas., 31/1/78, 4.10 a.m.:

The witness went to the kitchen to make a cup of tea, the kitchen light was not on as she looked out the window. The time on the electric clock was 4.10 a.m. The witness was staying at her daughter's house to look after the children. Just above the distant S to SE hill line she noticed a star-like white light. Over the period of a minute the light gradually approached directly towards the witness, growing in size all the time. Eventually it passed in front of a tall gum tree about 400/500 m distant. The witness now felt a little concerned that "it" was going to land in the paddock next to the farm yard. In fact the now well-defined object performed a circular movement over the paddock coming within a metre or two from the ground. The object at the closest could have been around 200 m, it circled away gaining some elevation and passing across the gum tree again. The original flight pass was then repeated as the object passed low over the paddock going from the witness's right to left. It then moved in front of the tree a third time. The object now departed, increasing speed and elevation to disappear behind Weston Hill in a matter of 10 seconds. It had moved around over the paddock slowly, taking 3 to 4 minutes. The object when nearby looked to be elliptical shaped with sharper ends. It had two very bright white lights in the centre; when pointing at the witness it was hard to see anything else. When it turned away she could see a glowing silver shape.

- TUFOIC report from ACOS Bulletin, March, 1978.

(TUFOIC reported that it logged 31 unidentified sightings out of a total of 144 reported for 1977)

Baladonia, W.A., 5/2/78, 4.00 a.m.: The witness stated:

While driving west approx. 20 - 30 miles east of Baladonia, I observed a large spotlight coming towards me, coming from the west going east. I thought it was another vehicle so I put my high beam on and off several times, but the other light did not change brightness. Then I could see a large diamond shaped object coming towards me. It had red, blue, green and yellow lights, which were reflecting off the road beneath it. The white light nearly blinded me so I didn't know whether it went directly overhead or veered to one side of me. Then I stopped the truck and got out, but couldn't see anything. After a couple of minutes I started driving again. I started looking around when I noticed a round dull white light or object on my right hand side, which was approximately 2 - 3 inches in diameter, also travelling at the same speed as the truck. I then stopped and the object stopped. I started driving again and the object also started to move. Then it disappeared when I drove into Baladonia. About 5 minutes later it reappeared on my left side. I then stopped and another truck coming from the west also stopped to see if I was alright. I asked if he had seen anything, but the object had disappeared. I started driving again, and the object once more appeared on my left. I switched off the truck headlights. The object went from a round shape to an elongated shape which was approx. 17 inches by 8 inches high. It was dull white with black segments (windows?). About one minute later it reappeared on my right in a round shape again. At about 4.30 a.m. the sky was getting light and the object disappeared for the last time.

-UFO Research (WA) report from ACOS Bulletin, Mar, 78.

Montagu Bay, Tas., 3/7/78:

...Mrs. Mary Barker, of Montagu Bay Road, said she and a neighbour spotted the object about 10 a.m., and kept it in view until it appeared to land somewhere in the Collinsville area. Mrs. Barker described the object as dazzling bright, silver and disc shaped. She said it revolved like a top as it moved through the sky just above treetop level...

- Hobart Mercury, 8/3/1978.

The illustrated book, "QUARTER CENTURY STUDIES OF UFOS IN FLORIDA, NORTH CAROLINA & TENNESSEE", by George D. Fawcett, is available directly from the author; 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, N.C., U.S.A. 28092. \$4.50 in USA; \$5.00 overseas.



INTERSTATE REPORTSBowna, NSW, Mar., 1978:

...Two young farmers watched two large, bright, silver objects hovering above a valley on their property 10 days ago during an eerie silence. Christopher Kloppenborg, 25, and his brother, Geoffrey, 22, were mustering sheep on their parents' property, "Old Toonallook", at Bowna, north of Albury, when they saw the objects.

Geoffrey said: "We were mustering at 7.30 a.m. and I was on the motorbike going along the top of the hill when I looked across the valley and saw a large object. My first thought was that it was a plane, but then I realised it was too close to the hills and it was stationary. It was probably about one mile away but was still the size of a small hayshed. It was very bright - a chrome or mercury colour and hovering in the sky above a tree-lined hill. I left the sheep and rode down the hill to get my brother Chris and told him to bring the binoculars".

Christopher said he followed his brother to the top of the rise and he could see the object across the valley casting a shadow on the side of the tree-lined hills. Christopher said he looked at the object through the binoculars with Geoffrey for about five to eight minutes and then told Geoffrey to ride the bike back to the homestead to get a camera.

"I thought of the things it should have been, but it was not a phosphate plane or a helicopter and a jet could not have been that low in the valley. So I realised with rather a shock that it was an unidentified object. It appeared to have black shaped along its side but I'm not saying whether they were windows or not. We were looking at it from what appeared to be the side and it seemed to be shaped like a short cigar. I watched while Geoff went for the camera and as I heard him returning, a second craft - much smaller and shaped like a stingray - came over the top of the hills to my right. It swept in a slow arc, then turned beside the bigger craft. They both took off and headed east over bush country. As they moved off at what seemed very rapid speed, Geoffrey was back beside me but it was too late to use the camera", Christopher said.

Geoffrey said: "As I was riding back to where Chris was I could see a second smaller object coming over the hills towards the big one. It seemed to turn in front of the bigger object and they both disappeared over the hills to the east".

The boys' parents followed Geoffrey from the homestead to the valley in a truck but did not see either of the objects. Mrs. Kloppenborg said: "When we got to the boys Christopher was standing there as white as a sheet. All the blood had drained from his face. They told us what they had seen, but when we discussed it later they asked us not to say anything as they were embarrassed by what they had seen and didn't think anyone would believe them".

I spoke to both the boys at different times and although both their stories were much the same they were extremely reluctant to tell what they saw that morning or be photographed.

- reported by Richard Willis in the Herald, 8/4/1978.

Adelaide, Jan., 1978: Mr. J. L. Duran, 37, of Aberfoyle Park was the witness:-

...Mr. Duran said he had returned home at 4.17 a.m. on Jan. 29 and had seen a red and blue flashing light in the sky. "I went inside and got a pair of powerful binoculars and saw the light was flashing in an L shape about 500 metres high, and was travelling towards me in a south easterly direction", he said.

After watching it for about three minutes, Mr. Duran said he had then seen nine discs - "big solid silver with gold speckles like a blue-ringed octopus" - form around the flashing light. He said the discs had not flashed, but "looked like the flying saucers we see in films".

Adelaide Advertiser, 15/4/1978.

Latrobe, Tas., 16/4/1978:

Two Latrobe High School students claim they saw a flying saucer hovering over Latrobe on Sunday night. Ann Jordan 13, and Annette Gower, 13, both of Bradshaw Street, Latrobe, said they saw the saucer about 7.30 p.m. It was about the size of a car, circular in shape, with red flashing lights. Both were walking to a shop in Laura Street at the time. The saucer appeared about 100 m above the ground and then descended behind a tree in Fenton Street, off Laura Street. They did not look to see if it had landed.

Burnie Advocate, 19/4/1978.

Olivia's Encounter of the First Kind

Singer Olivia Newton-John claims she has had a close encounter of the first kind - a UFO sighting in Australia. Newcastle-born Miss Newton-John, 29, said: "I was with a friend heading out on the edge of this lonely desert road with nothing in sight for miles. Suddenly I became aware of this strange sensation that something extraordinary was nearby. It was like a prickling sensation - a bit like static electricity. I looked across the shrub and couldn't see anything. Then something made me look up into the clear blue sky. I was quite stunned by what I saw - and speechless. There was this object which appeared to be fairly small at first and then increased in size with amazing rapidity. It was brilliant silver and yet seemed to glow from time to time with a halo of different hues. It also moved with great speed and manoeuvred quite unlike any other aerial object I'd seen"....

The Australian, 13/5/1978.

"CATASTROPHIST GEOLOGY" - an unusual journal for the open minded; Caixa Postal 41003, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil



INTERSTATE REPORTSW.A. Prospector's Experience

A close encounter of the second kind - a UFO sighting on the ground - has been made by mining consultant and prospector Stewart Graham, of Mosman Park. Mr. Graham says he came within four metres of the object which was one metre from the ground. What he saw is described by UFO researchers as a "following light", or "self-induced lighting system". And it is not an uncommon sighting in Australia.

Mr. Graham was working a mine for scheelite 28 km north of Valgoon when an experience lasting two hours changed his views on UFO sightings. On March 14 last year he was alone with his mother at the mine site. At about 9.30 p.m. in total darkness he was using an ultraviolet light to detect the mineral when they saw an extremely bright light 800 m away. His mother's reaction was that some aborigines were visiting them but the light came from rough trackless country. Apart from the humming of the generator lighting their caravan, all was quiet.

Two minutes later the light returned suddenly 200 m away. They both jumped in fright and Mr. Graham ran to the generator and switched it off. He grabbed his .22 semi-automatic rifle and sat in the cabin of a truck... and waited.

"Frankly, we were scared", he said. "Something we could not explain had happened twice. Nothing moved". Mr. Graham got out of the truck and the thing appeared again within three or four strides of him. "This time it had shut off its bright light", he said. "There was just an orange glow in the top half. It was smaller than a soccer ball and bigger than a softball. It just hovered one metre from the ground, possibly less than four metres from me. Then it switched off and disappeared". His mother went to bed satisfied that the thing was harmless, but Mr. Graham was not so sure. He fired some shots around the bush. He sat in the caravan and with the rifle on his lap he looked through the window.

The fourth sighting took place an hour later. About 30 metres away the bright light appeared. This time it turned on a searchlight beam which swung across the sky from horizon to horizon, again and again. As if it was a signal of finality, it switched off and he did not see it again that night or any other night.

Two weeks later he was working underground in the mine when a worker on the surface called him urgently. He climbed to the top and the man told him he had seen a bright light. Mr. Graham said: "Don't worry about it. I have seen the same thing and it's harmless".

In Valgoon, Mr. Graham found that the local police sergeant had been followed by a similar light in the bush, and a truck driver had had the same experience....

Perth Sunday Times, 21/5/1978.

Truck Driver Paced in Desert

An Adelaide truck driver has described to UFO Research (SA) an observation which occurred at 2 a.m. Mar 5. The witness stated:

I was travelling south from Leigh Creek towards Hawker. I had a blowout just before Parachilna and while I was changing the wheel I had a feeling that something or somebody was nearby watching me. I had a good look around and as I could not see or hear anything I finished changing the tyre. I climbed in the cabin of my truck, had a cup of coffee and a cigarette and I started off again.

About 2 - 3 minutes later I noticed a bluish-green light ahead, 6 - 8 feet above the road. I did not take any notice of it because the railway line was on my left hand side and I thought it was a reflecting sign. It then started to move slowly up and down about 2 - 3 feet. As I didn't know what it was I had put high beam on to have a look, but before the beam could hit it, two smaller red lights appeared under the green (one on each side) light and it took off about 45 degrees to the right, so quickly that I could see only a small flash and it disappeared.

About 30 seconds later it came back again, about 15 - 20 feet above the road. I could then only see the green light. It started to lower itself towards the road, and when it was about 5 feet off the ground I switched on to high beam. Again, before the beam hit it, the two red lights came on and it shot up into the air at great speed. It came back very soon afterwards but would not come below 20 feet above the road and it always kept 150 - 200 feet ahead of me regardless of what speed I was travelling. I had tried time after time to catch it but the result was always the same. This went on for at least 15 minutes.

A semi-trailer was coming up from behind me so I stopped, turned off my headlights and while I was watching for the semi to come closer the green light was still there ahead of me. I stopped the driver and the semi-trailer pulled up about 100 feet in front of me, so I drove my truck alongside. I took my time getting out and walking about 10 feet across the road to the semi and at the same time kept my eye on the green light. When I climbed up into his cabin and looked through the windscreen - it had gone.

After he left I waited for about 10 - 15 minutes but the light did not appear again so I started out myself ....nothing more happened.

UFO Research (SA) Newsletter, Mar-Apr. 1978.

Far North Queensland Reports

UFO Research - Far North Queensland, formed in May, 1977, with representatives in Cairns, Babinda and Cardwell, is a member organisation of ACOS. Since its inception it has received 20 UFO reports, the large majority of which were nocturnal lights. One incident occurred at Georgetown at 9.50 p.m., Dec. 24, 1977: ....Mrs. H. and her two daughters watched a bright orange light surrounded by a bluish haze hover over a gum tree some 100 metres away from their yard. After watching for about 3 minutes, the object rose vertically and headed away to the NW. As the object moved away the shape changed to an oblong shape with the orange light at the front.

UFO Research (SA) Newsletter, Mar-Apr. 1978.



OVERSEAS NEWSIranian Youth Reports Abduction By Alien Beings

It all began when 19 year old Gholam Reza Bazargani, belonging to a wealthy and respectable family of Chalus, Iran, decided to take a stroll in the nearby woods on Sizdehdar day, April 2, 1976. It ended two days later in Isfahan, leaving in its trail a score of baffled policemen, puzzled psychiatrists, a UFO, and a lot of mystery. According to Bazargani's report to Isfahan police, he was taken away by a UFO while strolling through the forests, and landed in faraway Isfahan on April 4th. While the authorities immediately placed Bazargani under psychiatric examination to determine his sanity, other reports from villagers in Marvine and Lanjan near Isfahan poured in as if to confirm the young man's claims. According to police officials in Isfahan, a number of people from these villages reported seeing what they described as a flying object. Similar reports were also received from other individuals and groups from the same region. The time of observations in all these reports coincided with Bazargani's claims.

In Chalus, meanwhile, the police had launched a massive search for Bazargani, but there was no trace whatsoever of the young man. According to Bazargani, while he was walking alone deep in the forests he suddenly saw a craft emerge from the sky, move straight towards him and stop directly above him. He said he was unable to move as he watched four "beings" come out of the craft and take him inside it. He claims that he spent some time under the scrutiny of the "beings" before passing out. "The next thing I remember is that I woke up back on earth early in the morning, not in the lush Caspian forests, but surrounded by barren lands". He somehow found his way to Isfahan later the same day. After spending a day with the police and psychologists, he travelled back to Chalus. Although most authorities are sceptical about the whole affair, they are still mystified by so many identical reports coming from varied people. All the doctors, including those at the Red Lion and Sun Society Hospital in Isfahan, who examined Bazargani, have given a clean report as to his health, both physical and mental.

-from Phenomena Research Report, No. 24, P.O. Box 1807, Seattle.

Circular Imprints in Canadian Wheatfields

Four large, donut shaped imprints were found in the wheatfields of a farm outside Rosburn, Manitoba, early in Sep. (1977). While swathing the fields, circles of flattened grain were found. According to the Brandon Sun reporter: "The circles looked as if a large saucer-like object came down vertically, gently rotating as it touched the ground". Eleven circles were visible from the air both in the swathed field and in another field still standing. Two sizes of circles appear to be 15 and 18 feet in diameter. "The soil under the pressed wheat is not noticeable indented. The grain has a flattened appearance similar to grass kept under an object for several days. In this case, the grain in the smaller circles has been pressed in a neat counter-clockwise direction; in the larger circles, the wheat lies clockwise". The investigating RCMP constable said: "I thought it was crazy until I went out. Another constable and I have both arrived at the same conclusion. They had to be made by unidentified flying objects"....

-Brandon Sun, 10/9/1977, via Res Bureaux Bulletin, Box 1598, Kingston, Ont.

Giant UFO Reported Over the Soviet Union

MOSCOW (Associated Press) - Scientists in the Soviet Union are baffled by a huge mass of light that flared up Sep. 20th in the skies of Petrozavodsk in Soviet Karelia and "hovered over the city in the form of a jellyfish sending down a multitude of fine beams", Tass reported.

The phenomenon occurred at about 4 a.m. over the city which is 130 miles from the Soviet-Finnish border. "Some time later the glow ended", Tass added. The "jellyfish" became a bright semicircle and resumed its movement in the direction of Lake Onega".

The news agency said grey clouds then appeared with a "semicircular aperture bright red in the centre" and lasted 10 to 12 minutes.

An official of the Petrozavodsk observatory, Yuri Gromov, was quoted as saying the phenomena was still a mystery.

Startling Flap in New Zealand

The New Zealand magazine, "Xenolog" No.114 reports that late 1977 saw a series of unusual UFO reports from Gisborne:

29/11/77 - A member of the local research group, after receiving an anonymous phone call reporting a "landing" in the Waimata Valley, went to the area to investigate and reported a spectacular close encounter sighting himself. A large bowler hat - shaped object sped towards him and hovered for 3 minutes about 60 m away. A bright beam of blue light shot out of a small square aperture in the craft, focussing on a dead tree trunk about 15 m from the object. The tree lit up 'like a Christmas tree', with each branch radiating coloured light of different hues. The fluorescence lasted some 7 seconds until the blue irradiating beam stopped. Sheep in the paddock bleated and fled away from the tree. The object then moved to the right and hovered for a further two minutes before sweeping back and behind the hill and re-emerging in the place where he had first noticed it. The object disappeared while he went to contact another group member. Later examination of the tree revealed nothing unusual.

2/12/1977 - A Waimata Valley farmer reported to the investigator above that at 3 a.m. he had gone outside to check his barking dogs and saw a landed 'flying saucer'. The object glowed bright blue and had doors which opened into an intensely bright red interior. He then looked towards the dog kennels and saw two humanoids carrying one of his dogs between them and moving towards the craft. The humanoids were about 4 ft 8 in tall and were wearing close fitting metallic silver overalls and white, opaque helmets. The sheepdog being carried by the legs between the two humanoids appeared to be limp and unconscious. Alarmed, the farmer raised his rifle and fired at one of the humanoids, and



apparently 'winged' him. The two humanoids dropped the dog, the wounded (?) humanoid running into some nearby bush while the other ran into the craft. The rectangular door folded shut and the craft took off vertically at great speed. The dog stood up groggily, shook itself and began barking and jumping around....

Later the same day, three car travellers reported to a Gisborne Herald reporter that their vehicle had been showered with small stone-like particles as they travelled near Gisborne. Two separate showers struck the wind-screen, but they did not stop. Next day the driver and the reporter went to the site and retrieved some tiny granular pieces of a blue-green crystalline material. A sample of the material was posted to the University of Waikato for analysis but had dissolved by the time of its arrival.

3/12/77 - Two investigators in the Valley observed a large green object pass out from behind a hill just above road level about 35 m away. The object seemed to just hang there for a few seconds and then passed back behind the hill again. The object was apparently extremely big, "possibly a hundred feet across". Both investigators were shaken by the experience.

6/12/77 - three separate reports of automobiles being paced by aerial craft near Gisborne. In one a dog in the back seat growled and raised its hackles during the incident; in another the driver observed a metallic object with a cupola about 200 feet away. The driver noticed that the dashboard lights dimmed during the encounter. The car could not be started the following morning... there was no water in the battery although it had been checked and filled two days before.

8/12/77 - A driver in the Waimata Valley reported that at 1903 hrs. a smallish 'man' wearing a silver suit and bright red boots (but no helmet) had tried to flag his car down from the side of the road. The witness said the 'man' was about 4 ft 9 in tall and waved frantically while jumping up and down. The driver slowed his car, but because of the man's unusual appearance and the unusual reports from the area, he sped up and headed towards town.

Many more reports than the above mentioned were recorded, and were continuing strongly at the time of Xenolog's publication. The Gisborne Herald for March 7 reported: "Reports of UFOs in the area have now reached the two hundred mark!"

And what was official reaction to the sightings? Extracts from the Wellington "8 O'CLOCK" paper, 4/2/78:-

The RNZAF is taking no action over the rash of unidentified flying object sightings over Gisborne - because it doesn't believe they exist. - The UFOs are an illusion. And that's official.

The writer asked Air Force Press Officer Flt. Lt. John Francis in Wellington RNZAF's policy on UFOs. His reply: "We don't believe in them. We're not doing anything about it".

And was any check being mounted on the Gisborne scene?

"Even if we did believe in UFOs, we don't have the resources to do anything about it"....

-summarised from Xenolog, 33 Dee St., Timaru, N.Z.

#### M\*A\*S\*H\* Star's UFO Scare

M\*A\*S\*H\* star Jamie Farr claims he has been chased by a UFO. "I never want to see another UFO as long as I live", said Farr, who plays the dress-wearing Cpl Klinger. "My wife Joy and I were driving in the night through a long stretch of desert on an absolutely empty road in Arizona", said Farr. "We looked out towards the mountains and we saw a light above one of the mountains. At first we thought it was a light at the top of a TV tower".

Farr and his wife then noticed that it was zigzagging, and that's when the trouble started. "It hovered for a while then it zigzagged all the way down until it was about 50 yards away from our car on the driver's side", recalls Farr. "The object stayed just above the desert floor and kept following us at our own speed. Joy wanted me to make contact with it but there was no way I would. I was frightened". Farr said the object then took off again at a super fast speed. "Joy and I will never forget that night, it was quite an experience - and frightening".

Melbourne Sunday Observer, 5/3/1978.

#### Menace From the Sky

"The authorities are attempting to play down the incident. Their official version of what happened is that lightning hit a transformer on Bell Island (Newfoundland), blew up and the energy then followed the wires to neighbouring houses", says the correspondent to the Toronto Globe and Mail (3/4/1978)

Something came out of the sky and wreaked havoc among some Bell Island residents and has worried many others. Jim Bickford said: "My son, I can't tell you what happened. I heard a racket, that's all I can call it - a racket. This thing broke over the house. I've worked in mines and we shot 300 plugs of powder at one time, and there was never a racket like that". Cynthia Bickford said: "Whatever it was passed right through the house and down to the barn. The sky lit right up. And you could see smoke in the woods". Their house had been "torn up as if it had been hit by lightning but there were no burn marks anywhere". Several chickens were killed, three circular holes in the form of a triangle were found in the snow that were 1½ feet deep, the earth shook, balls of fire were seen descending, and electrical equipment was extremely disturbed by what I'll call the 'Menace'. Bickford's telephone was blown off the wall, and his TV exploded. Other island TVs lost power with the blast or blasts. One resident says she heard three blasts which were accompanied by earth tremors. Power was lost just before the first blast, sparks came out of an oven, and electrical outlets were "blown from the wall by the blast". The centre of the 'Menace' was over Lance Cove, and residents along the mainland shore of Conception Bay claimed to have seen "fireballs coming down out of the sky, and hitting Bell Island", or "streaks of super bright silvery white light". Someone is said to have suggested it was the Concorde, the RCMP suggested it was ball lightning, a Memorial Uni. spokesman suggested a meteor could have caused the noise and electrical discharge but two of his colleagues are still at a loss to explain. The weather office is said to have reported there was "no unusual atmospheric activity at the time of the blast"....!

- Res Bureaux Bulletin, 13/4/1978.



OVERSEAS NEWSRed Hands : Gran Blames a UFO

Grandmother Ethel Field is blaming a flying saucer for the fact that her hands are red raw and the skin is peeling off her palms. Mrs. Field, 63, is convinced her hands were burnt when she shielded her eyes from the "blinding white light" of a UFO. She swears she saw the oval shaped object while in the garden of her home at Parkstone, near Bournemouth. Two men in tight-fitting silver suits and helmets were in a dome at the top. "I saw one of the occupants pointing down and I thought for a horrible moment it was going to land", she says. "I held up my hands to shield my eyes from the light, and watched from between my fingers". CYNICS TAKE NOTE : Bournemouth coastguard believe her. They saw it too.

- Newcastle Sun (NSW) 10/4/1978.

Astronaut Tells of Men From Space

New York, Sun: The American astronaut Gordon Cooper believes in flying saucers and aliens from space. "I keep hearing these stories from credible sources inside the Government and they just won't go away", he said. "I can't tell you the names of these sources, but they're credible. Frankly, I think the Government should release the information, no matter what the White House thinks".

Mr. Cooper, who flew two space missions around the earth in Mercury 9 and Gemini 5, now works for Walt Disney Productions as vice-president for research and development of Walter E. Disney Enterprises. The division is responsible for planning, designing and engineering at Disneyland in California and Disney World in Florida. In a TV interview Mr. Cooper tells of a rumoured space ship crash somewhere in North America.

"There have been stories that there were occupants", says the interviewer, "and that our Government was able to keep one alive". Cooper replies : "I think it's credible. And I would like to see the time when credible people would investigate these stories or refute them".

The interviewer, Mervyn Griffin, a former band singer whose nightly variety and talk show attracts one of America's biggest evening audiences, says : "What did the occupants look like? Reports have it that they didn't look any different from us". Mr. Cooper answers : "From everyone abducted or any contact they have had with them, they all agree, even under hypnosis, that the occupants are no different from us".

From his office at Disney HQ in Glendale, Cal. yesterday, Mr. Cooper said : "I've been struggling to put my fingers on something and I must say there is a good possibility that this thing exists, that the incident took place. It makes you wonder".

Mr. Cooper's astronaut colleagues were surprised by his statements. Space veterans Tom Stafford and Mike Collins said they had never heard the stories that Mr. Cooper was talking about. Chief astronaut Donald K. Slayton said: "I did not hear Gordon mention UFOs the whole time he was an astronaut..."

- West Australian, 10/4/1978.

Cabbie Terry Snaps a UFO 'As Big As a Bus'

English taxi driver Terry Bishop was not at all frightened by his strange encounter - he simply put it on film. On a night when scores of people in southern England reported seeing an unidentified flying object, Mr. Bishop dashed outside with his camera. And now he says of the mysterious flying object he photographed: "I'm convinced it is a spacecraft from another planet".

Mr. Bishop, 29, a father of two, said : "The object was about the size of a double decker bus and was tilted at an angle. It stayed motionless under a low cloud for perhaps eight or nine minutes. It looked like two inverted saucers placed together. The polar regions were red and the central part a yellow-orange colour. I reckon it was about half a mile away. Suddenly it zoomed away at an incredible speed into the clouds. It was uncannily silent. Some people thought I'd faked the picture. They said it looked like a lampshade. But I took the picture in a hurry and it's genuine".

Professional photographer David Spokes has seen the original polaroid print and says the photograph has definitely not been tampered with. A spokesman for the magazine "Flying Saucer Review" said : "There have been hundreds of photographs of UFOs during the last 20 - odd years. This is a typical example".

Many other people confirmed that Mr. Bishop was not alone in spotting a fiery object in the night sky. The sightings were spread over a period of six hours on April 5 - 6.

- Sydney Sunday Mirror, 23/4/1978.

SERIES OF "BALL OF LIGHT" PHENOMENA IN SCAIENI, ROMANIA

(From a report sent by Romanian investigator, Moraru Augustin.)

Case 1. At about 8.00 p.m. at the close of February (1977), 41 year old engineer Croitoru Stefan was in a car with the driver Manolache Ion. They were coming from Balaca Street of Scaieni town when they saw (coming from the SE) a red light like a globe which was surrounded by perfect brilliant orange-red concentric circles. The sky was clear, and the object was moving horizontally slowly at about 100 m altitude from south to north (from their right to their left). As they stopped for the intersection they got out of the car (without extinguishing the headlights) so that the pair could get a better look at the unusual object. The object was about 1.5 m in diameter, but no sound from the object could be detected by the two observers. After about two minutes the object changed direction and slowly disappeared in the distance low over the northeast horizon. It was watched for perhaps 5 minutes before disappearing from view. No navigation lights were visible at any time. The UFO did not affect in any way either the health of the witnesses or the functioning of the automobile in which they were riding.



Case 2. On May 2, 1977, three school children - two girls and a boy - were walking home from a dance on the Saturday evening. The road was very badly illuminated but it was a very clear moonlit night with many stars and a gentle wind. The time was 1.30 a.m. when they sighted a very strange light on the road at about 700 m distance. The single light bulb of the street was situated in the back. After a few minutes of walking in that direction (SE) they were in the vicinity of their homes, and at approx. 200 m from the ball of light, they observed that the strange light was in fact an orange-yellow spherical object with a reddish ring in the middle. The object was about as big as a pea at arm's length. The object appeared to be balancing horizontally. Sometimes the colour changed to red in the centre of the object. The object was self-luminous but did not illuminate the surroundings. The UFO appeared to be about the size of a small car, floating at about 1.5 m height on the right side of the road. Also they noticed a peculiar change in the behaviour of the dogs. At the time of the sighting the dogs reacted, howling and barking in an unusual manner. While they were asking themselves what it could be they had a vague impression that the UFO was coming toward them. They became frightened and started to run to their homes. No sound nor secondary effects were noted during the 5 - minute sighting, which had frightened the children sufficiently to keep them indoors the rest of the night.

The next day one of the girls, Oprea Cristina, told the adventure to her parents. Knowing of her teacher's interest in UFO phenomena, she hurried to inform him of the incident. An examination of the area revealed an unusual trace of burned grass on the right ditch of the road. The first examination was by Mr. Cristian Balan, her teacher. The burn was approximately circular with one metre diameter. Careful inspection revealed an unusual appearance in the soil of the bare ring. A small patch of earth was blacker, and had the appearance of humid soil, in contrast with the neighbouring soil. Also a rock which had its top out of ground was blackened as if by burning of the grass in the area. Smelt closely, the "humid" soil seemed to have a pleasant medicinal odour, and touched with the fingers it produced a smarting sensation. A girlfriend of Cristina, who was present at the investigation, also touched the black earth from this spot to smell it and received a smarting sensation and swelling of the right forefinger. The smarting continued after washing the hands, and then small blisters appeared on the forefinger. The finger felt completely numb for a few hours...

Case 3. On Wed., May 18, at about 9.10 p.m., the same witness, Oprea Cristina, and two of her friends, boys Sirbu Ion, 18 and Vacarita Constantin, 10 (living on the same street) were coming from a club on Bucovului St. to their homes. They were in front of their homes when at a distance they saw a light coming from the east over a field which stopped at the bottom of the street not far from the last house where the field begins, 250 m away in the SE. It stopped about 5 metres from the ground and hovered there for about 3 minutes, in which period it grew in bulk, becoming a brilliant yellow ball of light. The globe was 2 m across and no sound from the object could be detected. Soon after that they could see a beam of light coming toward them, but a little to the right, which terminated sharply in the air, and which was emitting smoke or vapour. After the disappearance of the beam from the globe another three yellow balls of light of football size appeared from the globe, which flew obliquely into the sky successively at short periods of time with terrific speed and disappeared. Then the great globe grew increasingly in bulk and at the same time became paler until it vanished into the darkness. When the three balls of light detached from the great globe the observers had the impression of hearing a short crack like the opening of a parachute....

Case 4. The following night, May 19, 1977, at about 10.20 p.m., an unusual object was sighted west of the Scaieni Town Border. Mrs. Elena Chirita, 32, had finished work at the factory, and going out of the factory, she observed in the west a large bright yellow round ball of light at about one km and 5 m height over the vicinity of the Teleajen River. The globe was moving slowly - right and left and vice versa. Living in the vicinity of the factory, at this point she ran into the house shouting for her mother to get up. Her mother and her 14 year old daughter Valerica were in bed asleep at that hour. Aroused from their sleep by her shouting, they now joined her, and soon they could observe the strange phenomena taking place over the river and the nearby power lines. The power lines cross approximately perpendicular to the river. The UFO was brilliantly illuminating the whole immediate area. Not a sound could be heard. The daughter Valerica also observed many factory workers coming off shift and remarking on the strange bright "ball" which excited their curiosity, and some of them walked together to the river for a clearer view...It was a cold night with clear sky. It was the third time in a week that balls of light were seen at the outskirts of the town late at night.

#### MORE DETAILS ON THE CRESWICK "CIRCLE"

In the February Bulletin an item from the Ballarat Courier was published which reported the finding of a strange ground circle at Creswick, 18 km north of Ballarat. Investigator Paul Norman visited the site, and he reports as follows:

I first learned of the incident while watching Channel 7 News on the night of 29th December. Thinking that the ring was found that day, I rushed up there on Friday, 30th Dec. for samples. On arriving I found out that the ring had been found on the 26th, and two rains had occurred since.

On the night of 25th Dec., two grandsons were visiting their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Mick Porter, of Creswick. About 10.30 p.m. the boys were watching a light moving back and forth across the paddock. They described the light as white, shining down a red beam. The grandfather, Mr. Porter, told the boys to go to sleep, that it was only a reflection of airplane lights. There was no sound, but Mr. Porter at first did not think.



Next morning Mr. Porter and one of the grandsons were awakened by dogs barking furiously and a blast of wind hit the side of the house from the paddock. There was a sound similar to that of hail on a tin roof, according to Mr. Porter. The grandson, Michael, described the sound as like a rake being pulled over a tin roof. There was complete silence before and afterwards. Mr. Porter said he thought another earth tremor was coming, like the one which occurred a few weeks prior.

Next morning Mrs. Porter went to get her cow and saw the ring. The cow avoided the ring for three days. It was only after the rains that she went near the spot. While I was there she led the cow to the circle. The cow sniffed the ring but would not eat grass near it.

Scores of people came to see the mark and Mr. Porter spent considerable time showing each group the markings. He wound up with a severe headache which persisted for several days. He had not been bothered with headaches before in his whole life.

There were other people who reported seeing lights near the Porter property, but they were in that area on holidays, and I was unable to locate them. A prominent businessman gave me a signed statement that he and his wife were returning from Melbourne on the night of the 25th. His wife was asleep in the car, and just before he passed the Porter property, his car engine went silent, although it did not slow down. At the same time he could see each side of the road more clearly. When he went past the property his car engine and vision came back to normal. I questioned him about his vision as to whether or not his car lights had brightened. He said that he did not think so, because he had an eerie feeling, and his wife had awakened feeling strange and thinking something was wrong. It was a couple of days later when he learned about the Porter experience.

#### FILM REVIEW: "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND"

"Close Encounters of the Third Kind" has been seen as a great disappointment by those interested in seriously studying the UFO phenomenon. The film has incredible visual impact with its astounding photographic effects; however, it is naught but a story, and a fairly poor one at that. The allegedly "authentic" effects of UFOs on the environment during a UFO experience were, in most instances, grossly exaggerated, so as to appeal to the paying public. As such, it has nothing of interest to offer the researcher. Nevertheless, its entertainment value must not be under-rated, for it is indeed quite a remarkable picture from the film-maker's point of view, and apparently according to the general public, if their interest in the subject, recorded by tremendous box-office attendances, is to be taken into account. Perhaps we can at least hope that the film-goer will be stimulated into thinking more deeply about the topic of UFOs.

- Nada Richards.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

I would like to thank all those members who have sent us news clippings and other information over the past year, and to the majority of members for their patience. We regret that we are not able to answer all mail as quickly as we would like to, or, judging by the few 'nasty' letters and phone calls we have received, as quickly as a few people would like. To that small minority who seem to think that we, the committee, derive some financial gain from the Society, I would like to point out that subscriptions barely cover the cost of producing the Bulletin. Many of the Society's operating costs are borne out of the pockets of committee members. No member of the Society or its committee receives any remuneration for his efforts. VUFORS is an entirely voluntary non-profit organisation, and committee members carry out Society functions in their strictly limited spare time. This being the case, publication of the Bulletin will not always be on time (quarterly - Feb, May, Aug, Nov), but we will ensure that all financial members receive four issues per annual subscription.

- G. N. Richards.

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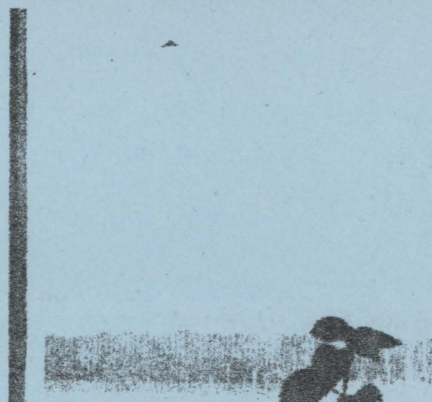
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